



Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice in Michigan
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November 18, 2012

The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice in Michigan opposes HB 5684 and HB 5685. It is a sneaky attempt to impose one set of beliefs on those who have a different belief and value system.

There is no religious agreement on when life begins. We celebrate that this country was founded on the principle of religious diversity – where one set of religious views does not trump another's. We know that legislating among such diversity is challenging. However, this is why it is so important to leave very personal decisions to individuals and their own moral or religious values.

We understand that you work diligently to protect religious beliefs of all people. When doing so, please remember that when one set of religious beliefs starts to impede on another's that is no longer religious liberty, but intolerance.

While our member organizations are religiously and theologically diverse, they are unified in the commitment to preserve reproductive choice as a basic part of religious liberty. This religious liberty is a cornerstone to our democracy.

We do believe it is morally right to help people and families. If the Legislature were truly interested in helping families, it would reinstate the child tax credit that it abolished last year. If the Legislature truly wanted to help pregnant women, it would provide a tax break for her health care and prenatal care expenses.

Thank you for your time and please oppose HB 5684 and HB 5685.

In Faith,

Rabbi Amy Bigman
Reverend Robert Frederick
Joy Whitten